

alternating principle is set forth as applied in producing the orderly diminution of pinnacles, which seems to correspond with the "Rules for constructing a pinnacle," as given by Matthias Roriczer in 1486, and now first published in the last number of the "Journal of the Archaeological Institute." Dry and uninteresting as this subject may appear to many of your non-professional readers, I feel assured, from the numerous evidences now being brought to light, that some important points on the subject of beauty in architecture will be substantiated. I was particularly struck with the window from Herne Church, engraved in your present volume of *THE BUILDER*, in which the three primary figures alluded to completely guide the formation of the geometrical tracery.—Yours truly, A. B.

THE BARONIAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL ANTIQUITIES OF SCOTLAND. (CATHEDRAL OF ST. MUNG, GLASGOW.)

UNDER this title, Mr. E. W. Billings and Mr. Burn, the architects, have commenced what may be considered a work of national interest,* strongly entitled to warm support. The architectural antiquities of Scotland have been disregarded, and in many cases are passing away without adequate record. We may hope now, however, that the want will be most worthily supplied, and a book produced that may stand on the same shelf with Britton's "Cathedral Antiquities," and "Architectural Antiquities," of England. The abilities of the authors are well known, and the way in which the first number of the work has been produced, affords sufficient proof of the zeal with which they have entered on the task.

The present number contains four engravings of Glasgow Cathedral, executed by Le Keux, and two woodcuts. We give one of the latter, a view in the crypt of the same cathedral, and extract the following from the letter-press:—

"At the northern extremity of the city of Glasgow, on an elevated and solitary site, to which the noise of the busy surrounding town scarcely penetrates, stands the Cathedral of St. Mung, the most unostentatious specimen of ecclesiastical architecture in Scotland. To reach it the traveller has to pass through a line of sordid filthy streets; and its first appearance is not inviting, from the unfortunate predominance of the north-western tower or belfry, the upper portion of which is the work of a comparatively late period. It is from a point near the north-western extremity that the full effect of the building is most satisfactorily felt. Its predominant characters are height and length, and the details are so arranged as, with wonderful felicity, to aid these features. The roofs, both of the aisles and of the central departments, have a very abrupt slope, and the windows, in the style generally denominated the early English, are narrow and lancet-shaped. The transept projects so little beyond the aisle, that the building scarcely presents the usual cruciform ground plan, and thus the long perspective is scarcely broken. A considerable descent of the ground towards the east adds greatly to the elevation of the choir, and to the general loftiness of the structure; and if there be any portion of it which does not aid in this prevailing character, it is the spire, a specimen of a later date than the rest of the building, and characterised by the canopied windows of a more florid style of architecture. The individual parts of the exterior are not profusely ornamented; but the windows, buttresses, and gurgioles are so numerous as to impart great richness to the solemn dignity of the old undecorated Gothic. The silence of the place, and the multitude of tombs with which the old grave-yard is paved, are in full harmony with the character of the edifice. Near its eastern extremity, in a deep hollow, runs a stream, and on the opposite bank rise, tier above tier, the hundreds of tombs of the modern Necropolis, appearing like a vast and indefinite continuation of the original grave-yard, and certainly seen to greater advantage through the uncertainty of distance, than on a nearer approach. The southern side, exhibiting some details of a later style of architecture, is

VIEW IN THE CRYPT OF GLASGOW CATHEDRAL.



inferior in simple grandeur to the northern; but a small low edifice, with gabled arches, intended apparently as the basement story or crypt of a continuation of the transept, will strike the stranger who climbs up and peeps through its only window, with the richness of its interior decorations. A feature of the exterior that might not be omitted is, a line of massive gurgioles, of very expressive character, embellishing each of its monstrous open mouths, on the lower jaw of which a grotesque face is represented in bas-relief.

Entering by a wide door on the south, the first object likely to be noticed is the rich screen separating the choir from the rest of the building. The gloomy low-browed arches to the right lead to the crypt, which the reader will remember to have been so powerfully described by Sir Walter Scott in *Rob Roy*, and place of worship in the early part of the eighteenth century. It occupies the whole area beneath the choir and the chapter house, and, to the level of the ground, declines in the direction of a considerable mass of light piers to the interior. It is quite insufficient, however, to derive from an interior feeling of solemnity, to which, at the same time, the harmonious and symmetrical following of the greatest arching support is quite equal to a soaring and then of gloom."

It is desirable that the letter-press in future numbers should be fuller and more complete.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE Guildford carpenters have almost all struck work for an advance of wages, a demand which very few of the masters have as yet complied with.—A few days since, in opening a passage in the Canterbury precincts, long closed, a stone archway was discovered, which has since been fitted with a new wooden door of communication from the deanery to the cathedral.—The Dock Company, says a Southampton paper, have contracted for, and already begun the construction of a second dry dock, to be completed in November next. Messrs. William Cubitt and Co., the builders of the company's first dry dock, were the successful competitors, the amount of their tender being little above 17,000*l.*; that of Messrs. G. Baker and Son, the contractors for the new

custom-house now so near completion, was, it is said, nearly 18,000*l.* The new dock, though of comparatively small cost, will almost equal the present one in capacity. It is to be 250 feet in length upon the blocks, and hold two 500 ton ships at once.—The foundation-stone of a Roman Catholic Chapel, says the *Bristol Journal*, has been laid at Thurnham. 2000*l.* were given by Miss Dalton, of Thurnham Hall, towards its erection.—The church of St. James, Bath, is to be enlarged, and a tower added by the city architects, at a cost of 2,000*l.*, which has been subscribed for the purpose.—The first stone of the chapel to be erected at the Church of Fagland Cemetery, Birmingham, was to be laid by the Hon. Frederick Gough, on the 6th instant.—In consequence of combinations among the workmen, observe the *Birmingham Gazette*, the ironmasters of Wales have also united in resistance. Wages are said to be 40 per cent. higher than they were two years ago. Where a strike takes place, the masters agree to assist each other with iron at reasonable terms, to complete their orders, and they have resolved not to engage any who cannot produce a written discharge from his last employer.—The first stone of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary, Sheffield, was laid on Thursday week. The site chosen is partly on the ground occupied by the old chapel.

A memorial praying that the ancient abbey of St. Albans be converted into a cathedral church, and the see of one of the new bishops be established at St. Albans, has been addressed to government by Lords Salisbury, Clarendon, Verulam, Dacre, Cowper, and other noblemen and gentlemen.—A subscription list has been set about for the collection of a sum of 1,225*l.*, necessary for the purpose of resealing with open oak seats, and of putting into thorough repair and restoration, the church of St. Mary, Butterford, Leicestershire. Rates to the amount of 460*l.* have also been granted in aid of the same good end, which is said to be now one of actual necessity.—The Fen office in the Isle of Ely has been improved by a new flight of steps and stone entrance, erected by the Duke of Bedford.—The formation of a park on the east side of Hull has been suggested.—A site for the new Hull Club House for the bankers, merchants, &c., has been offered and accepted.

* Published by Messrs. Blackwood, Edinburgh; and St. Paul's Church-yard, London.